

CONCORDIA COUNCIL ON STUDENT LIFE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Room 769 of the Hall Building, Sir George Williams Campus, at 5:30 p.m. on February 20, 1978

PRESENT: Prof. F. W. Bedford, Chairman
Dr. E. Enos, Mr. M. Flynn, Mr. J.A. Sproule, Mr. J. Macaluso, Mr. J. Hopkins,
Ms. B. Litner, Rev. R. Gaudet, S. J., Mr. B. Philip, Mr. F. Denton, Prof.
R. Allison, Prof. L. Van Toch, Prof. B. Slack, Mr. J. James, Ms. N.
Marrelli, Mrs. S. Kerr, Mr. R. Davies, Mr. M. Wiemann, Mr. D. Martin,
Ms. S. Howlett, Mr. N.-W. Cloutier, Mr. J. McCully, Mr. H. Safvi, Rev.
R. E. O'Connor, S. J. and Mrs. N. Cooper, Secretary.

GUESTS: Prof. G. Martin, Vice Rector Finance and Administration and Mr. W. M. Reay, Treasurer, and three observers.

ALTERNATE: Ms. J. Magnan for Prof. W. Gilsdorf.

ABSENT: Prof. T. Fancott, Ms. M. O'Dea, Mr. O. El-Awadi, Mr. K. Boyle, Mr. Y. Dubois.

Chairman's Remarks

- 78.2.1.0 The Chairman opened the meeting by having a roll call to ensure that two-thirds of the Council membership was present, this being the quorum specified in the mandate of Council for the purpose of voting on policy or budget matters. The roll call revealed a quorum present.

Guest Speaker - Prof. Graham Martin

- 78.2.2.0 Prof. Bedford introduced and welcomed the guest speaker, Prof. Graham Martin, Vice Rector, Administration and Finance. Prof. Martin prefaced his remarks by stating that, while he would address himself particularly to budgets, he would be happy to answer questions posed to him by members.
- 78.2.2.1 He then told the Council that the University is financed by a combination of tuition fees and a Government grant. The grant is determined by an historic formula base established in the late 1960's using percentages decided by the Government for salaried and non-salaried items and other components, which determine the level of expenditures allowed in a given fiscal year. The Government grant is the amount of money required in addition to tuition fees to reach this level of expenditure and is adjusted on a year to year basis. The amount is made up of two basic masses - a masse salariale and a masse non-salariale - which are typically adjusted by different percentages, last year 8% and 4%. Preliminary indications for the coming year are 8% and 0%. This system is carried forward and adjusted for enrolment according to a Government formula. At present each additional student would increase Concordia's grant by 50% of the per capita grant and a decrease in enrolment would have a similar but adverse effect. Current per student amounts are in the vicinity of \$3300 which would indicate an increase or decrease of \$1500 - \$1600 per student difference from last year's grant.
- 78.2.2.2 In addition to this, according to the speaker, it has been possible in the past for a university to request a special grant for a particular purpose, a so-called Cas Particulier or Demande Additionnelle. These grants may be given

in two ways; either one sum or a recurring amount which is added to the University's base figures and then indexed into future budgets. The Cost of Merger granted last year was composed of both a lump sum and a recurring amount.

- 78.2.2.3 The Vice Rector stated that at the present time the University is operating at a deficit and a Demande Additionelle is now before the Government which would bring Concordia's grant more in line with other Quebec universities.
- 78.2.2.4 Allocations on the expense side of the budget are again largely historic. Salary policy is determined within general guidelines and applied with discretion in most departments; there are however obvious problems in the non-salary area because of inflation.
- 78.2.2.5 The speaker then addressed himself to the budget for which CCSL is responsible. The Government grant for Student Services is determined on an entirely different basis from that of the University in general. No attempt is made to control the level of expenditures or the fee charged to students. Each year the Government simply determines the amount of money to be granted per Full Time Equivalent student. This amount was \$42 in 1977/78. The number of Full Time Equivalent students is determined by dividing the total tuition fee revenue by the cost of a full-time student, which in Concordia's case is \$450. At McGill the figure is \$570. Prof. Martin reminded the Council that Student Services are a non-admissible expense to the University and no transfers may be made from the general budget into the Student Services area. Services may, however, be bought as is the case in the Health Centre where the Administration pays a fee to Student Services to cover costs of health services made available for faculty and staff.
- 78.2.2.6 When queried about the University's deficit, Prof. Martin said that a deficit, currently in the range of \$5,000,000, had been accumulating since May 1976 and is financed through loans. The Government is presently studying the matter and if a favourable decision is not forthcoming, the University will be faced with a severe austerity program.
- 78.2.2.7 In discussion with the Chairman of the Finance Committee the following points emerged:
- a) salary increases were awarded only to full-time personnel in 1977/78.
 - b) figures for the Government grant for Student Services are usually obtained about March of each year.
 - c) The Administration is currently studying methods of dealing with a possible decline in revenue.
- 78.2.2.8 In answer to a question from Dean Flynn regarding the proposed use of soon-to-be-vacated space on the 5th floor of the Hall Building as study facilities, Prof. Martin said that he believed it would be proper for Council to recommend this priority through appropriate channels.
- 78.2.2.9 The following procedures regarding the Student Services budget were outlined by Prof. Martin in answer to a question from Mr. Davies. A budget, usually implying a Student Services fee, is forwarded by Council to the Board of Governors through Father Graham and the Rector. Following approval by the Board of Governors the

budget is then implemented by the administration which informs each department of its allocation. Departments then produce spread sheets showing each month's anticipated expenditures. This information is then fed into the budget control system on a monthly basis. Actual to budget is available at the end of each month as well as for the fiscal year end.

- 78.2.2.10 In response to questions from Ms. Marrelli, the speaker stated that, while money available for part-time salaries was not increased in the 1977/78 budget, there is a certain flexibility inherent in part-time salaries. He also confirmed that salaried items in the general budget are very similar to those in the Student Services budget - about 70%. He believed any difference would probably be related to costs for heating, hydro, books, etc. which are major items in the non-salaried area.
- 78.2.2.11 The matter of priorities was then referred to by several Council members. All supported the plea for additional athletic facilities on the Sir George Williams Campus made by Ms. Marrelli and Dr. Enos.
- 78.2.2.12 Mr. James suggested that the cost of the Chaplaincy should perhaps be considered in part a cost of the University rather than solely Student Services.
- 78.2.2.13 In reply to a question from Father Gaudet concerning acquisition of Loyola High School, Prof. Martin again stated that this would require capital budget which in the foreseeable future is unavailable.
- 78.2.2.14 Mr. Davies then enquired about the possibility of obtaining a breakdown of any revenue over expenditure for the 1976/77 academic year. Prof. Martin said that he believed it should be possible to obtain.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Rector for sharing this information with Council and Prof. Martin then left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of January 23, 1978

- 78.2.3.0 With regard to item 1.4, Mr. Martin stated that it was his intention that the administration be requested to supply specific alternatives should Birks Hall become no longer available. The Chairman then read his letter, dated February 2, 1978 to the Rector on this subject. He also pointed out that Prof. Martin had been apprised of the importance with which Council viewed athletic facilities on the Sir George Williams Campus; Dr. Enos having made some excellent suggestions in this regard. The speaker had already alluded to the problems concerning athletic facilities on the downtown campus.
- 78.2.3.1 It was MOVED by Mr. Hopkins, SECONDED by Mr. Wiemann THAT the Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 23, 1978 be APPROVED.

Report of the Finance Committee

- 78.2.4.0 Mr. Macaluso reported that in conversation with Father Graham he had learned that the 25,000 figure for enrolment raised at the previous meeting was a "ball park" figure which included graduate students, undergraduates, Mature Student Qualifying Program students, etc. The number of undergraduate students quoted in Document CCSL-78-1-D4 was therefore correct. This document was then brought forward for consideration; Mr. Reay, the University Treasurer, being present to answer members' questions.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee stated the consensus of this Committee had been in favour of a graduated fee with a very strong insistence that the present level of student services provided for part-time students be not reduced.

78.2.4.1 It was MOVED by Mr. Macaluso, SECONDED by Mr. Safvi

"To implement for the 1978/79 academic year a graduated scale of student services fees based on a percentage of tuition charged."

After some discussion, Mr. Reay outlined the basis on which student services fees are charged. Students who pay this fee are undergraduates, graduate students, independent students - all who are registered in courses that may be taken for credit.

78.2.4.2 Ms. Marrelli enquired about student services fees in other universities, particularly UQAM, where there is a large number of part-time students. It was pointed out that this information could only be generated in Quebec as it does not exist in the rest of Canada. Mr. Macaluso then read the following information with respect to McGill's fee for Student Services in 1977/78:

All full-time undergraduate students taking 24 or more credits - \$75.

1st year master students - \$75.

2nd year master students - \$40.*

Beyond 2nd year master students - \$40.*

Part-time, special and visiting students -

a) if taking between 18 and 23 credits - \$40.*

b) if taking more than 9 but less than 18 credits - \$25.*

c) if taking 9 credits or less - \$15.*

* These students may use athletic facilities with the permission of the Director of Athletics and payment of an additional fee of \$35.

He then quoted figures from McGill's student services budget for the current year as well as a summary of the student services fees and total budgets at McGill for the past six years.

Mr. Hopkins said that UQAM collects student services fees on a percentage of tuition basis.

78.2.4.3 Mr. James reminded students that if a pro-rated fee structure is voted in, they will be liable to an unlimited percentage at some future date, particularly in view of the anticipated decrease in student population. Prof. Bedford emphasized the urgency of having a functioning Priorities Committee in order to keep costs down.

78.2.4.4 Dean Flynn then MOVED, SECONDED by Fr. Gaudet THAT THE QUESTION BE CALLED.

The Chairman then called the question.

MOTION CARRIED, 21 in favour, 3 against, Messrs. Davies and James and Ms. Marrelli.

Date and place of the next meeting

- 78.2.5.0 The next meeting of Council will be a Special Meeting to consider the budget and will be held on March 13, 1978 at 5:30 p.m. in Room AD-128 of the Administration Building, Loyola Campus. Members were asked to be prepared to have another meeting on the following Monday if necessary.
- 78.2.5.1 Ms. Marrelli reiterated that Fincom should do everything in its power to ensure that a conflict situation did not recur when presenting the budget at the next meeting.

Other Business

- 78.2.6.0 It was MOVED by Mr. Martin, SECONDED by Mr. Denton

"THAT the administration be informed of the importance placed by the Concordia Council on Student Life on serious consideration of study space being made available on the 5th floor of the Sir George Williams Campus."

MOTION CARRIED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.